

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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P R 100905Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3320

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SEOUL 7969

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MILI MPOL KS

SUBJ: WEEK OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INTERPELLATION ENDS IN IMBROGLIO

REF: (A) SEOUL 7440 DTG 230915Z SEP 75

(B) SEOUL 7927 DTG 100306Z OCT 75

SUMMARY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WEEK OF INTERPELLATIONS HAS BEEN INTERRUPTED AND MAY NOT RESUME DURING THIS SESSION BECAUSE OF CONTROVERSIAL REMARKS OF NDP ASSEMBLYWOMAN KIM OK-SON (REF B) AND IMBROGLIO OVER HER POSSIBLE EXPULSION. WEEK OF QUESTIONING ROKG CABINET INCLUDED SHARP CRITICISM OF FOREIGN MINISTER, DISCUSSION OF SECURITY AND DEFENSE MATTERS, AS WELL AS PROBING OF ROKG ON KIM TAE CHUNG TRIAL AND OTHER TRIALS. END SUMMARY.

1. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INTERPELLATIONS MAY WELL BE OVER FOR THIS SESSION, FOLLOWING REMARKS ON FLOOR BY OPPOSITION NDP ASSEMBLYWOMAN KIM OK-SON WHICH DRP (GOVERNMENT PARTY) SPOKESMEN CLAIM "GREATLY DAMAGED NATIONAL SECURITY." BLUE HOUSE SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT MS. KIM'S REMARKS TO
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EFFECT THAT MASS DEMONSTRATIONS HELD AT YOIDO PLAZA WERE

GOVERNMENT SET-UPS WERE INDEED SERIOUS BECAUSE THEY CAST DOUBT ON ROK'S FIRM COMMITMENT TO STAND UP TO NORTH. ROKG AND LOCAL PRESS PREVIOUSLY HAD REFERRED TO MASS MEETINGS AS MORE OR LESS SPONTANEOUS OUTPOURING OF ENTHUSIASM FOR ANTI-NORTH, PRO PATRIA CAUSE.

2. BY MORNING OF OCTOBER 10, DRP ANGER OVER MS. KIM'S REMARKS HAD NOT NOTICEABLY COOLED AS ANTICIPATED. LEGISLATIVE AND JUDICIAL COMMITTEE PASSED RECOMMENDATION FOR HER EXPULSION FROM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BY EIGHT TO THREE VOTE. VOICE VOTE WAS UNDERTAKEN WHILE NDP WAS STILL DEBATING ISSUE IN COMMITTEE. NDP SPOKESMAN HAN PYONG-CHAE STATED THAT COMMITTEE ACTION IS THUS NULL AND VOID.

3. BY END OF DAY, OCTOBER 10, LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT DRP AND YUCHONGHOE HAD ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL THEIR MEMBERS NOT TO ATTEND LEGISLATIVE SESSION UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. THEY ALSO REPORTEDLY SENT EMERGENCY ORDER TO EIGHT ASSEMBLYMEN ABROAD TO RETURN IMMEDIATELY, SOME REPORTS SAY BY AS EARLY AS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12. (ASSEMBLY OBSERVERS EARLIER HAD MAINTAINED THAT EXPULSION VOTE DID NOT SEEM LIKELY WITH SEVERAL ASSEMBLYMEN OUT OF COUNTRY OR OTHERWISE UNAVAILABLE.)

4. EDITORIALY CHOSUN ILBO AND CHUNGANG ILBO NOTED THAT WHILE MS. KIM MAY HAVE BEEN TOO BLUNT, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAD IMPORTANT BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO AND SHOULD RETURN ASAP. PRO-GOVERNMENT KYONG HYANG SINMUN AND SEOUL SINMUN IN THEIR EDITORIALS WERE CRITICAL OF MS. KIM BUT DID NOT SUPPORT EXPULSION. ONE SETTLEMENT, THEY SUGGESTED, MIGHT BE FOR MS. KIM NOT TO REPEAT THIS KIND OF CRITICISM. SEVERAL PAPERS PRINTED KOREAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION ADVERTISEMENT WHICH EXPRESSED ITS INDIGNATION OVER THE NDP ASSEMBLYWOMAN'S REMARKS. OBSERVERS EMBASSY PREVIOUSLY TALKED TO (REF B), ARE NOW SHIFTING OPINION, INDICATING THAT EXPULSION IS MUCH MORE LIKELY.

5. OTHERWISE PRINCIPAL INTEREST DURING INTERPELLATION HAS FOCUSED ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY MATTERS. AFTER INTERPELLATION BEGAN OCTOBER 6, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CRITICISM
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OF FONMIN KIM TONG-CHO INTENSIFIED. STILL SMARTING FROM NDP LEADER KIM YONG-SAM'S ACCUSATION OF "FLUNKEYISM" (REF B) ROKG SPOKESMEN REMAINED ON DEFENSIVE. PRO-GOVERNMENT YUCHONGHOE'S OH CHONG-KUN BLAMED "DIPLOMATIC FAILURE" IN LIMA NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE ON LACK OF CONSISTENT AND WELL-FORMULATED FOREIGN MINISTRY PLANNING. NDP'S KIM SANG-CHIN CALLED FOR FONMIN'S RESIGNATION BECAUSE OF HIS RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOREIGN POLICY "ERRORS" INCLUDING

UNSUCCESSFUL ROK EFFORT AT LIMA. AFTER TWO DAYS UNDER FIRE, ACTING FONMIN NO SIN-YONG TOLD DCM THAT LAWMAKERS OF ALL PARTIES WERE CLEARLY AFTER FONMIN'S SCALP. MOFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION BUREAU'S HAN WU-SUK ALSO CONFIRMED THAT LEGISLATORS WERE EXTRAORDINARILY HOSTILE IN THEIR ATTACKS ON ROK FOREIGN POLICY UNDER KIM'S DIRECTION. THEY PARTICULARLY CRITICIZED EROSION IN ROK INTERNATIONAL STANDING VIS-A-VIS DPRK AND EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT INCREASING ROK ISOLATION COMPARED WITH STANCE A FEW YEARS AGO.

6. PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, AND VICE FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO DISCUSSED NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE MATTERS DURING INTERPELLATIONS. FOCUS OF PRIMIN'S ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WAS REJECTION OF DISSOLUTION UNITED NATIONS COMMAND (UNC) WITHOUT FIRM GUARANTEE THAT ARMISTICE WOULD BE PRESERVED. KIM SAID THAT ROK AND US HAVE FULL MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING ON SUBJECT. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THERE IS NO NEED TO AMEND MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY (MDT) AT THIS TIME, BECAUSE KOREANS ASSURED OF STRONG U.S. SUPPORT.

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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7. DEFENSE MINISTER SHU ELABORATED ON UNC DISSOLUTION PROPOSAL, STATING THAT ROKG AND USG HAVE STUDIED POSSIBLE

SUCCESSOR COMBINED COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS. SUH EXPLAINED THAT ROK IS MOVING FORWARD TO "SELF-RELIANT DEFENSE POSTURE" IN EARLY 1980'S, WHICH WILL INCORPORATE SUFFICIENT STRENGTH TO CRUSH ANY NORTH KOREAN AGGRESSION NOT SUPPORTED BY EXTERNAL FORCES. DEFENSE MINISTER OUTLINED EIGHTH SCM DISCUSSION OF MILITARY BALANCE BETWEEN ROK AND DPRK, ADMITTING ROK HAS AIR AND AIR INFERIORITY AT PRESENT, BUT STATING THAT ROK'S OWN EFFORTS AND "...FIRM PLEDGES FROM THE U.S. TO ASSIST OUR MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM" WILL REDRESS BALANCE. HE ALSO CITED EIGHTH SCM AS OCCASION FOR US PROMISES THAT NO REDUCTION CURRENT US FORCE LEVEL PLANNED, AND ASSURANCES THAT US FORCES IN KOREA WOULD PROVIDE "IMMEDIATE AND EFFECTIVE SUPPORT" AGAINST NORTH KOREAN AGGRESSION.

8. VICE FOREIGN MINISTER NO, RESPONDING TO DEMAND FOR RENEGOTIATION OF NATO TYPE PLEDGE, SAID TWO TREATIES NOT REALLY SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT, WHAT REALLY MATTERS IS USG INTENTION TO LIVE UP TO TREATY AND THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT US WILL. NO ALSO SOUGHT TO PUT TO REST "STORIES" CIRCULATING CONFIDENTIAL

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RE: MILITARY MODERNIZATION PLANS, DENYING THAT THE ROKG IS NEGOTIATING WITH THE USG FOR THE "ACQUISITION OF SOME (US) DOLS THREE BILLION WORTH OF WEAPONS."

9. IN HUMAN RIGHTS AREA, PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG-PIL SAID THAT WHILE SOME US CONGRESSIONAL OFFICIALS HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT CRITICAL, GROWING NUMBERS OF CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS HAD COME TO UNDERSTAND CLEARLY HOW ROK WAS BESET WITH DIFFICULT PROBLEMS. SOME ARE EVEN PRAISING ROK'S FIRM DEDICATION TO CAUSE OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY.

10. DUP'S KIM NOK-YONG QUESTIONED MINISTER OF JUSTICE HWANG SAN-TOK AT LENGTH ON TRIAL PROCEEDINGS FOR KIM TAE CHUNG, DUP'S YANG IL TONG, AND KIM HYONG-IL, INTIMATING THAT IN KIM TAE CHUNG COURTROOM "ATMOSPHERE OF TERROR" PREVAILED.

11. HWANG DENIED TERROR BUT NOTED PARENTHETICALLY THAT TRIAL WAS NOT IN HIS JURISDICTION NOW BUT IN HANDS OF COURT. MINISTER NOTED ALSO THAT ALLEGED REMARKS MADE BY KIM TAE CHUNG ABROAD WERE NOT SUBJECT OF INDICTMENT (AS KIM NOK-HONG HAD INFERRED) BUT THAT EIGHT-YEAR LENGTH OF CASE AND TRIAL WAS DUE TO KIM'S REPEATED FAILURE TO APPEAR BEFORE COURT, SEVERAL RESHUFFLINGS OF JUSTICE MINISTERS, AND OTHER CHANGES FURTHER DELAYING CASE.

12. WHILE PRIME MINISTER IN EARLIER SESSION HAD SAID IN PASSING HE DID NOT THINK DISSIDENT POET KIM CHI HA WAS COMMUNIST, JUSTICE MINISTER EXPLAINED THAT THIS SPRING KIM HAD WRITTEN ARTICLE SAYING HE WAS MARXIST, AN ADMISSION

WHICH IS IN VIOLATION OF ANTI-COMMUNIST LAW.

13. MINISTER WOULD NOT GIVE NUMBER OF VIOLATORS OF EMERGENCY MEASURE NO. NINE TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BODY BUT PROMISED HE WOULD SEND NUMBER IN WRITING TO CHARIMAN OF LEGISLATIVE AND JUDICIAL COMMITTEE.

14. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE BUDGET SESSIONS WERE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN OCTOBER 13.
COMMENT: DRP APPEARS DETERMINED AT THIS POINT TO EXPEL ASSEMBLYWOMAN KIM AND HAS FORESTALLED NDP ATTEMPTS THUS FAR TO ARRANGE COMPROMISE. IT APPEARS ASSEMBLY WILL NOT REOPEN
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BEFORE OCTOBER 13, IF BY THEN. IF GOVERNMENT STILL SEEKS KIM'S EXPULSION NEXT WEEK, IT WILL IN ALL PROBABILITY HAVE THE NECESSARY VOTES.
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